



## NASA Weekly Update

Week of April 16 - 23, 2007

**April 20: Statement by NASA Administrator Michael Griffin on Shootings at Johnson Space Center:** All of us at NASA are profoundly saddened by today's tragedy at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and all those touched by today's events.

**April 21: Expedition 14 Back on Earth:** Expedition 14 Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria, Flight Engineer Mikhail Tyurin and Spaceflight Participant Charles Simonyi are back on Earth. They landed safely



*Expedition 14 Commander Michael Lopez-Alegria at the landing site in Kazakhstan.*

southwest of Karaganda, Kazakhstan on Saturday at 8:31 a.m. EDT. Back on the station is Expedition 15 Commander Fyodor Yurchikhin and flight engineers Oleg Kotov and Suni Williams. Williams had been a member of Expedition 14 since December. She will remain with Expedition 15 until this summer.

**April 16: NASA Updates Shuttle Target Launch Dates:** During a meeting at NASA's Johnson Space Center, agency officials revised the target launch dates for space shuttle flights during the next 12 months. The space shuttle and International Space Station programs agreed to the changes during a meeting to

evaluate options following the STS-117 mission's delay, which was caused by hail damage to the external fuel tank. Flights beyond April 2008 have not been assessed. Both shuttle and station program officials will continue to consider options for the remainder of the shuttle flights and those target launch dates are subject to change. Upcoming shuttle missions:

--STS-117 targeted for June 8, 2007, on Atlantis

--STS-118 targeted for Aug. 9, 2007, on Endeavour

--STS-120 targeted for Oct. 20, 2007, on Discovery instead of Atlantis

--STS-122 targeted for Dec. 6, 2007, on Atlantis instead of Discovery

--STS-123 targeted for Feb. 14, 2008, on Endeavour

--STS-124 targeted for April 24, 2008, on Discovery instead of Atlantis

The shuttles for STS-120, 122 and 124 were exchanged to best meet the demands of the missions and to have the least amount of impact on the flight schedule. The shuttle launch manifest is available online at:

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/structure/iss\\_manifest.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/structure/iss_manifest.html). For details on upcoming shuttle missions and their crews, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/shuttle>.

**April 20: NASA Modifies Orion Crew Exploration Vehicle Contract:** NASA has modified its contract with Lockheed Martin Corp. of Littleton, Colo., to design, test and build the Orion crew exploration vehicle. The updated contract contains three significant changes. Two years have been added to the design phase. Two test flights of Orion's launch abort system have been added. And production of a pressurized cargo carrier for the International Space Station has been deleted from the initial design phase. NASA continues work to ensure a smooth transition from the Space Shuttle Program to the Constellation Program. This is demonstrated in a fourth element of the contract modification that provides for use of surplus raw materials, such as aluminum-lithium ingots now used in the construction of space shuttle fuel tanks, for Orion. For information about NASA's Constellation Program

and Orion Project, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/constellation/>.

**April 20: NASA Awards California Aircraft Support Contract to Boeing:** NASA has awarded a contract to The Boeing Company, St. Louis, for engineering and technical support of several specialized research aircraft at NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center. The sole-source, indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract may be worth up to \$28 million during its five-year performance period now through April 2012. Boeing will provide engineering and technical support for four heavily modified high-performance aircraft: two F-15s and two F/A-18s.

**April 16: NASA Buys Abort Test Boosters for Orion Flight Tests:** NASA has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Air Force to support abort flight test requirements for the Orion Project. The Air Force has contracted with Orbital Sciences Corp. of Chandler, Ariz., to provide launch services for the flight tests. The agreement with the Air Force's Space Development and Test Wing at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M., provides for abort test boosters that will serve as launch vehicles for Orion ascent abort flight tests that are set to occur from 2009 through 2011 at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. The first abort test is scheduled for 2008, but will not require a functional booster. For information about NASA's Constellation Program, visit:  
<http://www.nasa.gov/constellation>.

## Weekly Status Reports



Mission: STS-117 - 21st International Space Station Flight (13A) - S3/S4 Truss Segment Solar Arrays  
Vehicle: Atlantis (OV-104)  
Location: Vehicle Assembly Building  
Launch Date: Targeted for June 8, 2007  
Launch Pad: 39A  
Crew: Sturckow, Archambault, Reilly, Swanson, Forrester and Olivas  
Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles

Mission: STS-118 - 22nd International Space Station Flight (13A.1) - S5 Truss Segment  
Vehicle: Endeavour (OV-105)

Location: Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 2  
Launch Date: Targeted for Aug. 9, 2007  
Launch Pad: 39A

Crew: Kelly, Hobaugh, Williams, Morgan, Mastracchio, Caldwell and Anderson  
Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles

Mission: STS-120 - 23rd International Space Station Flight (10A) - U.S. Node 2

Vehicle: Discovery (OV-103)

Location: Orbiter Processing Facility Bay 3

Launch Date: Targeted for Oct. 20, 2007

Launch Pad: 39A

Crew: Melroy, Zamka, Parazynski, Wheelock, Wilson, Nespoli and Tani

Inclination/Orbit Altitude: 51.6 degrees/122 nautical miles



The Expedition 14 mission included many highlights during its seven-month duration, including the setting of several records. Lopez-Alegria completed five spacewalks, which gave him a total of 10 for his career. This set a U.S. record for not only number of spacewalks, but also cumulative spacewalk time, 57 hours, 40 minutes. He also set a U.S. record for a single spaceflight's duration with more than 215 days. This tops the 196-day mark, previously set by station crew members Dan Bursch and Carl Walz in 2001 and 2002. For more about the crew's activities and station sighting opportunities, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/station>.



- **April 24:** Near Field Infrared Experiment (NFIRE) launch from NASA Wallops Flight Facility on an Orbital Sciences Minotaur-1 vehicle.
- **April 25:** Aeronomy of Ice in the Mesosphere (AIM) launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base on an Orbital Sciences Pegasus XL vehicle.
- **June 8:** Launch of Space Shuttle Atlantis from Kennedy Space Center for mission STS-117.
- **June 30:** Dawn launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on a Delta II rocket.
- **August 9:** Launch of Space Shuttle Endeavor from Kennedy Space Center for mission STS-118.

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